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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/972,241	10/09/2001	Takaaki Hashimoto	P21531	3966
7055	7590	08/04/2005	EXAMINER	
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 ROLAND CLARKE PLACE RESTON, VA 20191				JERABEK, KELLY L
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2612		

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/972,241	HASHIMOTO, TAKAAKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kelly L. Jerabek	2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 15-22,27 and 28 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3,5,10,23,25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2,4,6-9,11-14,24 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/31/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Response to Remarks:

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 12) state that the Tsuzuki reference does not disclose a lens barrel that is provided to the video camera and the applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose providing a filter in a lens barrel. **The Examiner agrees with the applicant's statements regarding these features however, the Tsuzuki reference discloses a diaphragm including a filter and the applicant's admitted prior art provides a diaphragm in a lens barrel of a camera. Therefore, the combination of the Tsuzuki reference and the applicant's admitted prior art provides a diaphragm including a filter in a lens barrel of a camera.** Tsuzuki discloses in figures 1-3 a quantity-of-light adjusting device placed between lens groups of a digital still camera or a video camera. The device includes a diaphragm blade (4), a diaphragm case (3) and a blade retainer (6). The blade retainer (6) is secured to the diaphragm case (3) in order to prevent the diaphragm blade (4) from coming off (col. 3, lines 5-9). Therefore, the examiner is reading the blade retainer (6) as a base plate for

supporting the diaphragm. A stepping motor (1) drives the diaphragm blade (4) to each of the positions in figures 2(A) – 2(C) in order to adjust the size of the aperture opening that is placed in the optical axis (col. 3, line 38 – col. 4, lines 10). The diaphragm blade (4) is driven so that each of the openings (4c,4d,4e) can be placed in the optical axis. At position (P3) shown in figure 2(C) and ND filter (5) covering the small-aperture hole (4e) is brought into the optical axis. Therefore, the stepping motor (1) drives both the diaphragm blade (4) and a filter (5). Thus, the examiner is reading the stepping motor (1) as both a diaphragm driver as described above and a filter driver for moving an optical filter (5) into and out of an optical path. As shown in figure 3, the quantity-of-light adjusting device (14) is placed in a digital camera in front of a CCD (15) and between several lens groups (10,11,12,13). Although Tsuzuki discloses the above limitations including a diaphragm and a filter he fails to distinctly state that the diaphragm including a filter is provided in a lens barrel.

The Applicant's conceded prior art discloses in figures 9A and 9B a CCTV surveillance camera with a camera body (10') and a lens barrel (18') containing a diaphragm (21') and a diaphragm driver (24). Light that is incident on the lens barrel (18') enters the camera body (10') to be incident on the CCD (11) (specification: page 2, lines 9-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to place the diaphragm disclosed by Tsuzuki in a lens barrel as disclosed in the applicant's conceded prior art. Doing so would provide a means for allowing light to travel through a lens barrel, enter a camera body and to be incident on a CCD (specification: page 2, lines 20-25).

In response to applicant's argument (Amendment page 14) that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Applicant's arguments (Amendment page 14) state that there is no motivation to provide a filter in a lens barrel and even if the Tsuzuki reference were modified with the teachings of the applicant's admitted prior art, the combination would not result in the optical filter being provided in the lens barrel. The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Tsuzuki reference discloses a diaphragm including a filter and the applicant's admitted prior art provides a diaphragm in a lens barrel of a camera. Therefore, the combination of the Tsuzuki reference and the applicant's admitted prior art provides a diaphragm including a filter in a lens barrel of a camera. Tsuzuki discloses in figures 1-3 a quantity-of-light adjusting device placed between lens groups of a digital still camera or a video camera. The device includes a diaphragm blade (4), a diaphragm case (3) and a blade retainer (6). The blade retainer (6) is secured to the diaphragm case (3) in order to prevent the diaphragm blade (4) from coming off (col. 3,

lines 5-9). Therefore, the examiner is reading the blade retainer (6) as a base plate for supporting the diaphragm. A stepping motor (1) drives the diaphragm blade (4) to each of the positions in figures 2(A) – 2(C) in order to adjust the size of the aperture opening that is placed in the optical axis (col. 3, line 38 – col. 4, lines 10). The diaphragm blade (4) is driven so that each of the openings (4c,4d,4e) can be placed in the optical axis. At position (P3) shown in figure 2(C) and ND filter (5) covering the small-aperture hole (4e) is brought into the optical axis. Therefore, the stepping motor (1) drives both the diaphragm blade (4) and a filter (5). Thus, the examiner is reading the stepping motor (1) as both a diaphragm driver as described above and a filter driver for moving an optical filter (5) into and out of an optical path. As shown in figure 3, the quantity-of-light adjusting device (14) is placed in a digital camera in front of a CCD (15) and between several lens groups (10,11,12,13). Although Tsuzuki discloses the above limitations including a diaphragm and a filter he fails to distinctly state that the diaphragm including a filter is provided in a lens barrel.

The Applicant's conceded prior art discloses in figures 9A and 9B a CCTV surveillance camera with a camera body (10') and a lens barrel (18') containing a diaphragm (21') and a diaphragm driver (24). Light that is incident on the lens barrel (18') enters the camera body (10') to be incident on the CCD (11) (specification: page 2, lines 9-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to place the diaphragm disclosed by Tsuzuki in a lens barrel as disclosed in the applicant's conceded prior art. Doing so would provide a means for allowing light to travel through

a lens barrel, enter a camera body and to be incident on a CCD (specification: page 2, lines 20-25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 23 and 25-26 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuzuki et al. US 6,086,267 in view of Applicant's admitted prior art.

Re claim 1, Tsuzuki discloses in figures 1-3 a quantity-of-light adjusting device placed between lens groups of a digital still camera or a video camera. The device includes a diaphragm blade (4), a diaphragm case (3) and a blade retainer (6). The blade retainer (6) is secured to the diaphragm case (3) in order to prevent the diaphragm blade (4) from coming off (col. 3, lines 5-9). Therefore, the examiner is reading the blade retainer (6) as a base plate for supporting the diaphragm. A stepping

motor (1) drives the diaphragm blade (4) to each of the positions in figures 2(A) – 2(C) in order to adjust the size of the aperture opening that is placed in the optical axis (col. 3, line 38 – col. 4, lines 10). The diaphragm blade (4) is driven so that each of the openings (4c,4d,4e) can be placed in the optical axis. At position (P3) shown in figure 2(C) and ND filter (5) covering the small-aperture hole (4e) is brought into the optical axis. Therefore, the stepping motor (1) drives both the diaphragm blade (4) and a filter (5). Thus, the examiner is reading the stepping motor (1) as both a diaphragm driver as described above and a filter driver for moving an optical filter (5) into and out of an optical path. As shown in figure 3, the quantity-of-light adjusting device (14) is placed in a digital camera in front of a CCD (15) and between several lens groups (10,11,12,13). Although Tsuzuki discloses the above limitations he fails to distinctly state that the quantity-of-light adjusting device consisting of a diaphragm, a base plate, an optical filter and a motor is provided in a lens barrel.

The Applicant's conceded prior art discloses in figures 9A and 9B a CCTV surveillance camera with a camera body (10') and a lens barrel (18') containing a diaphragm (21') and a diaphragm driver (24). Light that is incident on the lens barrel (18') enters the camera body (10') to be incident on the CCD (11) (specification: page 2, lines 9-25). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to include the concept of placing a diaphragm in a lens barrel as disclosed in the applicant's conceded prior art in the video camera including a quantity-of-light adjusting device as disclosed by Tsuzuki. Doing so would provide a means for

allowing light to travel through a lens barrel, enter a camera body and to be incident on a CCD (specification: page 2, lines 20-25).

Re claim 3, the arm member (2) of the diaphragm blade (4) is pushed against stopper faces (3d,3e) by the stepping motor (1) in order to set the diaphragm blade (4) at the small-aperture position (P2) or the filter position (P3) (col. 4, lines 11-20). The filter is in the optical path when the diaphragm position is at (P3) and the filter is out of the optical path when the diaphragm is at (P2). Therefore, the Examiner is reading the stopper faces (3d,3e) as lock mechanisms since they lock the optical filter at positions both in and out of the optical path.

Re claim 5, the filter (5) that is bonded to the diaphragm blade (4) as disclosed by Tsuzuki is an ND filter. However, the applicant's conceded prior art states that it is well known in the art to insert an infrared absorbing filter into the optical axis of a television camera lens (specification: page 2, lines 9-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to have been motivated to replace the ND filter bonded to the diaphragm blade as disclosed by Tsuzuki with an infrared absorbing filter as disclosed by the applicant's conceded prior art. Doing so would provide a means for positioning a near-infrared absorbing filter in the optical path in an imaging operation during the daytime so that a color-image taking operation is performed for light only in the visible light region (specification: page 1, line 20 – page 2, line 8).

Re claim 10, the Examiner takes official notice that it is well known that the infrared region of light ranges from approximately 700 to 1000 nanometers.

Re claim 23, the applicant's conceded prior art includes a CCTV camera provided with a lens barrel (18') fixed to the front of the camera body (10') (specification: page 2, lines 9-15).

Re claims 25 and 26, the applicant's conceded prior art states that an actuator such as a galvanometer type actuator (24) drives a diaphragm device (21') (specification: page 3, lines 1-10).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11-14, and 24 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record fail to anticipate or render obvious the following technical features as recited in the highlighted claims:

Referring to claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11-14, and 24 the prior art fails to teach or suggest "A diaphragm device of a lens for a CCTV camera, comprising: a diaphragm, base plate, diaphragm driver, optical filter, and filter driver provided in a lens barrel wherein a pair of diaphragm blades lie on a first surface of the base plate and wherein the filter supporting plate lies on a second surface of the base plate".

Claims 15-22, and 27-28 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record fail to anticipate or render obvious the following technical features as recited in the highlighted claims:

Referring to claims 15-22 and 27-28 the prior art fails to teach or suggest a diaphragm, base plate, diaphragm driver, optical filter, and filter driver provided in a lens barrel wherein a pair of diaphragm blades lie on a either the front or rear surface of the base plate and wherein the filter supporting plate lies on either the front or rear surface of the base plate.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ise et al. (US 5,293,542) discloses an iris for a video camera. The information regarding diaphragms and light filters is pertinent material.

Yamaguchi (US 5,764,292) discloses an image pickup apparatus having a diaphragm and a high-resolution diaphragm. The information regarding driving a diaphragm and an optical filter in and out of the optical axis is pertinent material.

Nanjo et al. (US 6,771,315) discloses an image pickup apparatus. The information regarding driving a diaphragm and an optical filter in and out of an optical axis is pertinent material.

Iwasaki (JP 2000-310803) discloses a light-quantity adjusting device, lens barrel and photographing device. The information regarding driving a diaphragm and an optical filter using separate actuators is pertinent material.

Kondo (JP 02-123335) discloses a diaphragm mechanism for a camera. The information regarding driving a diaphragm and an optical filter using separate actuators is pertinent material.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

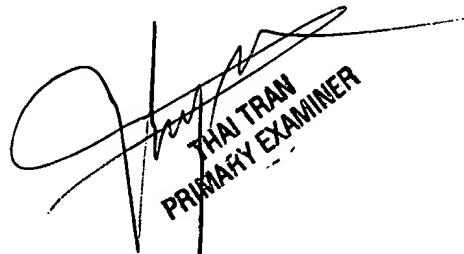
Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kelly L. Jerabek whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7312**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached at **(571) 272-7382**. The fax phone number for submitting all Official communications is **(571) 273-8300**. The fax phone number for submitting informal communications such as drafts, proposed amendments, etc., may be faxed directly to the Examiner at **(571) 273-7312**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KLJ



THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

A handwritten signature of "THAI TRAN" is written in black ink. To the right of the signature, the text "PRIMARY EXAMINER" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font, oriented diagonally upwards.